

**State Program Standing Committee
Child, Adolescent, and Family Mental Health**

Notes from February 26, 2002 Meeting

Present: Carl Theodore, Pam Dow, Zachary Hughes, Ken Liberto, Karen Mehrkens, Barbara Rachelson, Steve Soule, Robin Yandell

Absent: John Burchard

Guests: Alice Maynard, John Pierce

I. Housekeeping

- A. Minutes from January meeting were approved.
- B. Zachary and Alice reported that Irene Fisher has expressed interest in applying for a future opening on the Committee.
- C. Pam reported that she had recently attended a conference in Sacramento with 30 states that had received block grants from SAMHSA. The meeting suggested to her that the Federation and others need to advocate at the national and the state levels to protect funding. She is looking for success stories and families who could tell them. Several sources of such stories were suggested.

II. Designation

- A. Initial feedback from site visit and public hearing for Rutland Mental Health Members reported concern over several areas in the region's system of care:
 - Poor stakeholder relationships over the past several years.
 - Lack of a full-time Children's Services Director for several years.
 - CEO is only .5 FTE.
 - CEO is also .5 FTE as Vice President for the city's hospital; concern over potential conflict of interest.
 - The agency has followed a very strong medical model that is different than the outreach model espoused by the Department. Even the emergency services steer families to the hospital rather than stressing outreach and crisis as defined by the family.
 - Families have commented about some staff not listening to them and an attitude of paternalism.
 - Local Program Standing Committee's membership does not meet minimum standard, and they have not felt effective as a group.
 - The region's data shows a very high rate of hospitalization and use of Retreat Healthcare as well as a very low use of Waiver funding

Members reported positive elements as well.

- Recent appointment of a full-time Children's Services Director.
- The Standing Committee reports the new Director is helping to more effectively focus its work.
- The recent creation of 3 clinical teams with a mix of positions and each one serving about 100 youth has excited the staff about the resulting increase in care coordination.
- The hospital applied for and received a grant to help fund a psychiatric position.

- Recent 3-day retreat with stakeholders seems to mark a turning point in the agency's desire to improve collaboration with other agencies. The agency seems to be open to receiving and giving effective feedback at this time.

Once again there were no consumers, family members, or stakeholders present at the public hearing. CAFU staff were able to interview a number of families over the phone. The agency had asked these families to participate in the site visit, but they could not attend the day of the visit. Pam volunteered the Federation to help recruit families for future site visits.

B. Additional discussion of NCSS designation
Tabled until March meeting.

C. Action steps
Members asked Alice to invite Commissioner Besio to the March or April meeting to discuss two questions:

1. The Committee has noted that two of the six agencies they have reviewed have a CEO who is only half-time and who is an administrator for the local hospital the other half. Has the Department analyzed the implications of these developments?
2. What are her thoughts about the proposals to combine ADAP with DDMHS or to create its own department?

III. Legislative Update: Ken Liberto

Ken reported that not much progress has been made on the budget in the House yet. There are still opportunities to testify; anyone can contact any member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ken will send through Alice directions on how to access the legislative bill tracking system so members can look at H.213 regarding the proposal to establish drug courts.

IV. Hot Topics of Committee Members
Tabled.

V. Public Comment
None.

VI. Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting on March 26, 11:00-1:00.

- Commissioner Besio to discuss two questions above if she is available [or April]
- Deputy Commissioner Santarcangelo to update members on proposed changes to regulations around designation process [or April]
- Formulate recommendations on designation of Northwest Counseling and Support Services for Commissioner
- Legislative update